

**White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation  
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation**

**Topic:** Managing Diverse Resource Demands on America's Public Lands: A Cooperative Approach to Improving Conservation

**Session number:** 49

**Afternoon**

**Facilitator:** Ed Moreno

**Location:** 240

**A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion.** *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

Need to develop grassroots initiatives and trust—takes time to develop from bottom up

Building relationships is a must for successful collaboration. Make sure diverse stakeholders are on equal footing.

Developing trust between agencies and individuals. Expensive process.

Need really valid factual information and then share across the involved community and stakeholders. Provide citizen monitored information. Groups need to understand laws and share understanding of what rules and regulations apply.

The right decision maker needs to be at the table.

Frustration with agency processes.

Compliance process should be scaled to issue.

Agencies should have the flexibility to implement regulations appropriately for the circumstances while maintaining accountability for actions and results.

**B. National-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

NEPA is bedrock to consider alternatives different than what you've been considering. Important for non-economic players unless there is a specific requirements. Requires listening to all alternatives, then true collaboration can take place. Opens up dialog process. Can also delay process, however, and is expensive and time consuming. NEPA overhaul to cut costs and time.

Take ownership of your own agenda. Public agencies to be empowered to share what agendas really are. Political sensitivities may prevent that. Honesty-- no matter what.

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Federal templates are rigid, and may not necessarily reflect specific areas of need. Need to develop more policy frameworks that allow for more site specific judgments and particular instances.

Federal agencies willing to consider other alternatives after collaborative process and go outside box.

- C. **Local-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

Individual leaders willing to step up and break unspoken cultural mindset of not cooperating with federal agencies and agreeing to the problem you are trying to solve together

Need federal agencies to collaborate among themselves as well. Need to balance agendas.

- D. **Particularly insightful quotes from participants** that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.

"Crisis can bring opportunity."

"Passion is the motivator for people to come to the table and provides the fuel for staying involved."

Success: "Doing the right thing after everything else has been tried."

"From a federal standpoint it would be helpful to have management principles versus management policy and hold the agencies accountable for these principles."

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**Session number:** 49

**Afternoon**

**Facilitator:** Mary Mararet Golten

**Location:** 274

**A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion.** *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

- Leverage dollars and partners.
- Commit to a shared process and outcomes.
- Build and maintain relationships, focusing on trust.
- Be flexible in the process and implementation.
- Reward collaboration and creativity.
- When possible create working groups under existing FACA committees.
- Protect workforce and infrastructure in rural communities by maintaining economic viability. Maintain the linkage of healthy communities to healthy forests.
- Provide capacity grants to ensure broad based involvement in cooperative planning to eliminate the time and dollar barrier to participation in collaborative groups.
- Align agency processes:
  - A) Metrics
  - B) Cross Agency coordination and integration
  - C) Training.

**B. National-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- a. Make advance collaborative planning a part of NEPA and build better collaborative processes within FACA and NEPA by:
  1. Starting early
  2. Training federal employees about collaborative processes
  3. Certifying FACA more broadly.
  4. Increasing the resources and recognition available for federal and private participation.
  5. Assuring that stakeholder representatives report back to their groups.
  6. Meeting in more local settings.
- b. Share information both vertically and horizontally at the beginning of the collaborative process.

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- c. Bring economic discussion up to the level of environmental and ecological discussions.
- Improve the consistency and protocols for data sharing and cooperation at the highest level among federal agencies.
- Reward successful collaborative plans with immediate implementation funds.
- Have a small amount of resources available to experiment with new implementation ideas and approaches to reward risk taking regardless of success.

**C. Local-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Create small programs to allow innovation and implementation projects.
- Have a small amount of resources available to experiment with new implementation ideas and approaches to reward risk taking regardless of success.
- Bring economic discussion up to the level of environmental and ecological discussions.
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**D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants** that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.

"Forget boundaries, the land doesn't know who owns it"....

"Conflict is the fuel that runs some organizations."

"A complex overlay of laws and regulations stifles creative solutions."

"If there is no economic success, we must give this all up. Without infrastructure, we are not going anywhere.

"Processes should not be so outcome driven"

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**Afternoon**

**Facilitator:** Don Charpio and Matt McKinney

**Location:** 275 & 276

**A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion.** *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

- Foster meaningful involvement which includes providing legal structure that promotes and supports that involvement, good communication, build good working relationships.
- Promote positive attitude and maintain sense of humor
- Accept the fact of competing multiple demands (on Forest Service and BLM lands).
- Create a shared vision or common goal with respect to the decision space.
- Design and manage effective processes that recognize constraints of participations, i.e, time, right leader, facilitation, define interests up front, participation.
- Allow for easier regulation/rule changes, i.e., adaptive management.
- Funding – recognize that cooperative conservations has costs and then dedicate funding for collaborative processes.
- Integrate the collaborative outcomes with formal decision-making process e.g., EAs, EIS's.
- Lack of emphasis and incentives on cooperative conservation (i.e. performance measures).
- Lack of skills and willingness to participate in cooperative conservation.

**B. National-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Don't weaken the environmental laws. Clear laws reduce conflict.
- Protect the public's ability to participate in and influence management decisions.
- Leave decisions to local forest planning process (administration and agencies).
- Public interests need to have a more active and direct engagement with each other and not put the federal government in the middle.
- Stop making interests compete with each other though NEPA alternatives.
- Focus on public lands restoration as common ground rather than a contest.
- Agencies need to be outcome oriented and not bean counters. Get agreement on what is measured, how it is measured, and who measures it.

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- Standardize data analysis and apply data toward decisions.
- Designate funding for collaborative conservation for all.
- Respect decisions made at a regional and/or local level.
- Foster early involvement in the planning process and maintain that involvement.
- Develop better public involvement procedures and revise the notice and comment processes.
- Incrementally document progress and celebrate those accomplishments.
- Ensure all organizations, federal or NGOs, incorporate cooperation in their business models.
- Make early involvement worth the public's time. Create an interactive approach where the public helps develop project alternatives.
- Imbed cooperative conservation in policy and appropriations – not just discussed as funding, but also as authorities.
- Conflict budgets, legal budgets, and project budgets all need to come out of the same pot. We spend a lot of money on legislation and conflict resolution at the detriment of projects (administrative and congressional fix). Applicable for all organizations.
- Co-management of lands with state and local governments. Share the responsibility and the risk.
- Land management agencies need to have authorization to integrate rural development in their policies and regulations. Needs to be a part of their mission and devote resources to analyze the social and economic fabric of the rural communities.
- Have federal government co-fund for key state and local positions.
- Have a Forest Supervisor that is respected in the natural resource community.
- Better communication on how to involve non-local input on local issues.

**C. Local-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- a. Local and state entities need to commit to participate for the long-term.
- b. Must follow through on what you say you're going to do (recommendation for all).
- c. Locals need to be proactive and accept the responsibility to step up to the plate.
- d. Have local governments be cooperating agencies.
- e. What is the mechanism for unincorporated communities to be a cooperative agency?
- f. Locals need to encourage participation in resource advisory committees and other existing processes and opportunities.
- g. Citizenry/individuals need to participate.
- h. Engage federal government to support State's involvement.
- i. Integrate biodiversity conservation and rural economic development.

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- j. State and locals need to make a decision as to where to emphasize funding and employees' time.
- k. Actively build capacity to participate in collaborative planning.

**D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants** that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.

“need to have relentless optimism with a hardnose sense of reality”

“reconcile the litigation/conflict budget with the cooperation budget

“love the or issue, not the solution”

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